



18TH EHEALTH NETWORK 12-13 NOVEMBER 2020, BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

COVER NOTE

1.3 European Health Data Space

1. Issue at stake

The European Strategy for Data adopted in February 2020 announced work to be done on the horizontal framework for the common data spaces and on the creation of sector-specific data spaces, including the European Health Data Space (EHDS).

2. Summary

With regard to the European Health Data Space (EHDS), the European Strategy for Data announced that the Commission will develop sector-specific legislative or non-legislative measures for the EHDS, complementing the horizontal framework of the common European data space. The Commission should also support deployment of the data infrastructures, tools and computing capacity for the EHDS.

The work on the creation of the EHDS is carried out along several strands, in particular: (i) on the governance framework and rules for secure exchanges of personal health data across the EU in full respect of data protection rules, (ii) on deployment of the necessary infrastructure for such exchanges, (iii) on improved interoperability and quality of the health data, (iv) on supporting capacity building in the Member States, including digital skills of competent authorities and health workforce.

The first strand of activities (legal and governance framework) should be taken forward primarily through the work on the planned legislative proposal on the European Health Data Space with the intended adoption by the end of 2021. The remaining three strands of work (technical infrastructure, data quality and capacity building) will be implemented mainly through funding at EU and national level, including from the EU4Health proposal, the Digital Europe Programme (DEP), Horizon Europe, European Social Fund+ (ESF+) or the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF).

The Commission has launched a Joint Action (Towards the European Health Data Space - TEHDAS), which is expected to put forward options concerning different aspects of the EHDS. The Joint Action will contribute to the creation of the EHDS by developing, exploring and analysing options for data governance, data quality, data infrastructure and citizen involvement, as well as sustainability and ethical models, with the aim of producing proposals and options for data sharing between different Member States and across Europe.

3. Format of procedure in the meeting

For information.

The Member States will be invited to provide their input.